

DEFINITION AND TERMS OF A LAWN SPRINKLER SYSTEM

Backflow Preventer:

A device that prevents house and public water supply from being contaminated that is required by the State Board of Health. Backflow preventers are either plastic or brass. These valves need to be installed by a licensed plumbing contractor and require a permit.

Controller:

A timer which tells the system when to initiate watering and on which days to water. Better timers are multiple programs and have more than one start line. Controllers allow user to control each zone; more time for certain areas and less for others. Also, more frequently for some zones and less frequently for others. Timers are usually located in garages, basement or outdoors for certain appliances. Certain watering requirements need timers that can adapt to odd and even watering. These vary from town to town.

Manifold:

Connection point between sprinkler main and electric solenoid valves. Distribution center to which 24-volt electric solenoid zone valves are connected.

Rain Sensor:

An independent device that shuts off sprinkler system automatically when adequate rainfall exists.

Rotary Head:

Sprinkler head that moves; used in large open areas. Water is more forceful than mist head type. Pop-up type generally employed.

Spray Head:

A pop-up sprinkler head used in small lawn areas or shrub beds, a soft mist type spray pattern of water. These units come in brass or plastic or combination.

Shrub Riser:

A fixture generally used in shrub beds when height is required to get proper distribution of sprinkler patterns. Risers are either PVC (plastic) or copper tubing.

Solenoid Zone Valve:

Control valve for each zone. Allows independent control of an area. One is needed for each zone (i.e. a four zone system requires four solenoid valves). The solenoid valve is considered the HEART of an automatic system.

Valve Box:

Container that designates location of solenoid valves.